

COMMISSION ON DISABILITIES

Commission Members

Keith Willette – Chairperson
Moirra Miller – Vice Chairperson
Barbara Smith – Secretary
Loretta Henry – Senior Center liaison
Jerry Berrier – Technology
Daniel J. Morgado – ADA Coordinator

INTRODUCTION

The Commission on Disabilities meets on the second Tuesday of the month at 7:00 PM at the Shrewsbury Town Hall. Our meetings are open to the public. Of interest in the Commission on Disabilities section of the Town of Shrewsbury web site (www.shrewsbury-ma.gov/) are the ADA Compliance Survey completed by Nault Architects, a comment/complaint/grievance form and many useful links.

MISSION STATEMENT

The purpose of the Shrewsbury Commission on Disabilities is to bring about full and equal participation of people with disabilities in all aspects of life. It works to ensure the advancement of legal rights, promotion of maximum Opportunities including support services, as well as accommodations and Accessibility in a manner which fosters dignity and self-determination.

PRIORITIES

With a primary focus on education and awareness, we promote:

- Elimination of discrimination against people with disabilities
- Achievement of a barrier free environment
- Improvement of the delivery of municipal services
- Accessible housing and transportation
- Equal job opportunities in Shrewsbury
- Promotion of awareness of the needs of people with disabilities.

2006 HIGHLIGHTS

- The Commission sponsored the "Shrewsbury Forum on Disabilities" held in October 2006. The forum brought together multiple service providers for individuals with disabilities ranging from service dogs to Special Olympics. The event was extremely successful with a large community turnout.
- The disability awareness video created in 2005 was aired on Shrewsbury Media Connection after its debut at the community forum. The video received many positive comments.
- Continued to follow up on resident concerns or issues brought to the attention of the Commission
- Continued to monitor work on findings of the Nault survey
- Continued working with the Town's web administrator for accessibility and updates to the Commission on Disabilities section

- Continued the emphasis on enforcement of handicapped parking spaces as well as signage where appropriate
- Reviewed requests for new business licenses in Shrewsbury

2006 PRIORITIES

- The Commission will again host a community forum on disabilities in the fall of 2007.
- The distribution of the awareness video to numerous businesses as well as community organization
- Education and outreach to local businesses
- Monitor progress on high-priority projects resulting from the Nault Survey
- Developing a closer relationship with local organizations in terms of outreach and education
- To enhance the information provided on the commission's section of the website to include up to date information regarding meetings and educational programs tailored to a range of disabilities by both public and private organizations

We wish to thank Town Manager Dan Morgado for his continued presence and guidance at our monthly meetings and for his support on disability issues. His work as ADA Coordinator is greatly appreciated.